



Central Office

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April 13, 2021

Rep. Fue Lee
Chair, Capital Investment Committee
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.fue.lee@house.mn

Dear Chair Lee,

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is writing in support of your bill, HF 337. We thank you for including funding for asset preservation for the DOC. As you know, the DOC has over \$600+ million in deferred maintenance and the funds contained in this bill will go to address the most urgent needs at Minnesota Correctional Facilities. DOC also expresses its support for the regional and county jails study and report appropriation.

DOC's mission, vision, and values are aligned with HF 337. In order to achieve our mission – transforming lives for a safer Minnesota – we must ensure our facilities are sound. Minnesota Correctional Facilities are critically important state resources that offer safety, security, and support to employees and incarcerated individuals alike for the provision of rehabilitation and treatment services. These services are essential in order to assist individuals in returning to our communities successfully. The appropriation of asset preservation funds contained in HF 337 will go towards DOC projects including critical electrical service upgrading at MCF-Faribault, vital security upgrades at MCF-Lino Lakes, life safety related projects such as roof replacements at MCF-Moose Lake, and addressing health risks such as water leaks at MCF-Rush City.

DOC also expresses its gratitude for including the technical amendment to the appropriation from FY2021 relating to the fire suppression system in MCF-St. Cloud living units. DOC anticipates that as soon as this language fix is addressed, the project can commence.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Safia Khan with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Schnell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Schnell
Commissioner, Department of Corrections

CC: Safia Khan, Director, Government and External Relations